



CITES

Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora



**Convention entered into force
on July 1, 1975.**

**184 Parties (183 countries and
the European Union)**

**CITES aims to ensure that
international trade in plants
and animals does not threaten
their survival in the wild.**

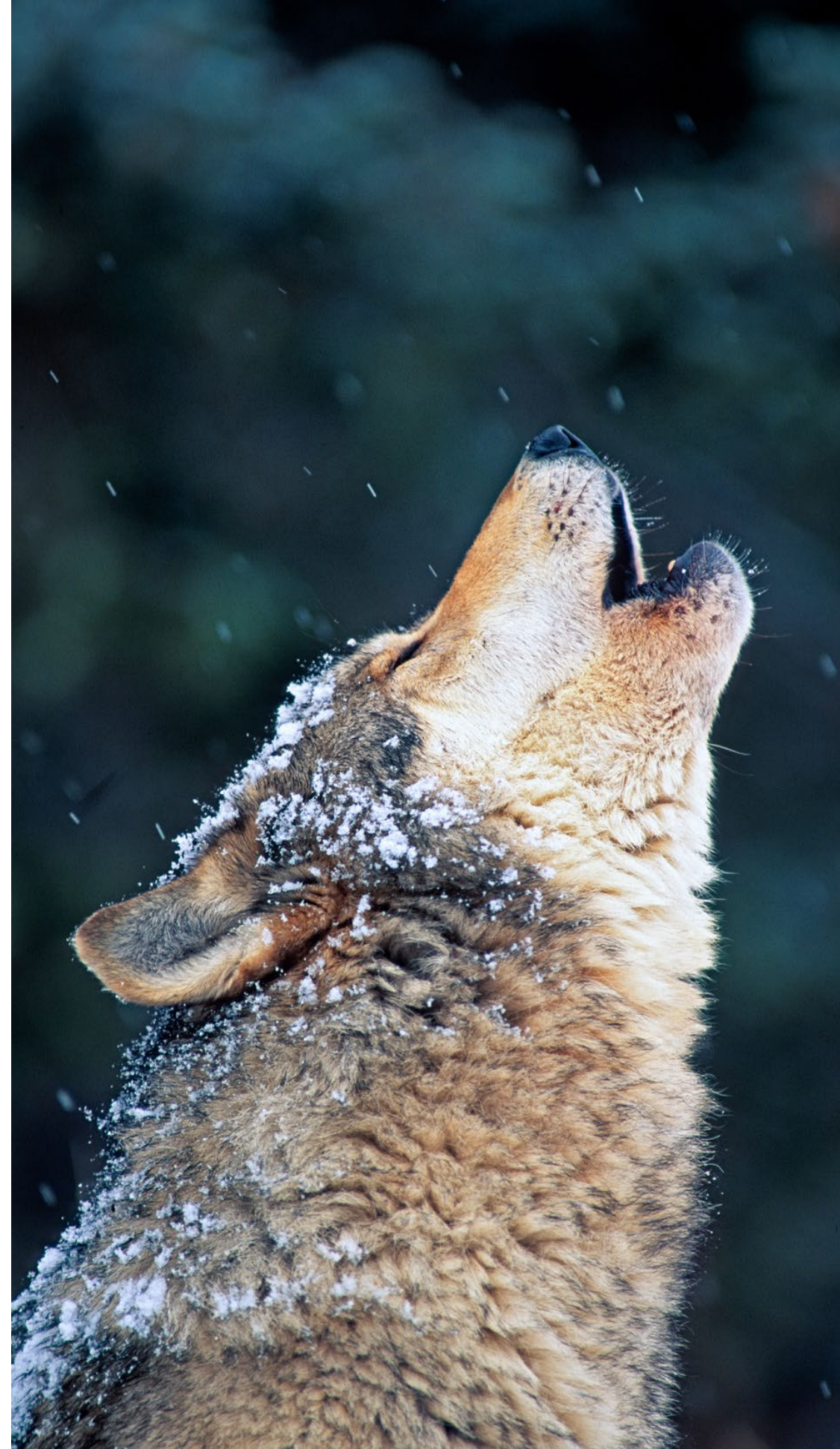


WHAT DOES CITES DO?

CITES regulates the export, re-export, and import of live and dead animals and plants, and their parts and derivatives, of species included in Appendices I, II, or III.

CITES regulates **international trade** through a system of permits and certificates that:

- are issued if the trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species and was legally acquired.
- must be presented when leaving and entering a country.



Appendix I

Appendix II

Appendix III

Commercial international trade is generally prohibited

Commercial and non - commercial international trade allowed through issuance of permits and certificates

Commercial and non - commercial international trade allowed through the issuance of a Legal Acquisition Finding for export

~704 spp. of animals
~400 spp. of plants

~5,500 spp. of animals
~34,000 spp. of plants
Numerous higher taxonomic listings

372 spp. of animals
134 spp. of plants

APPENDIX II

- **Species vulnerable to overexploitation but not at immediate risk of extinction**
- **Commercial & non-commercial trade allowed**
- **Inclusion in Appendix II decided at a CoP**
- **Permits/certificates required for export, but not for import**





APPENDIX III

- **Appendix III includes wildlife and plants that are protected in at least one country, which has sought the assistance of other CITES Parties, to regulate international trade of that species.**
- **Commercial & non-commercial trade allowed**
- **Inclusion in Appendix III decided unilaterally by a country**
- **Legal Acquisition Finding required to receive a permit for export**





CITES RESOLUTIONS

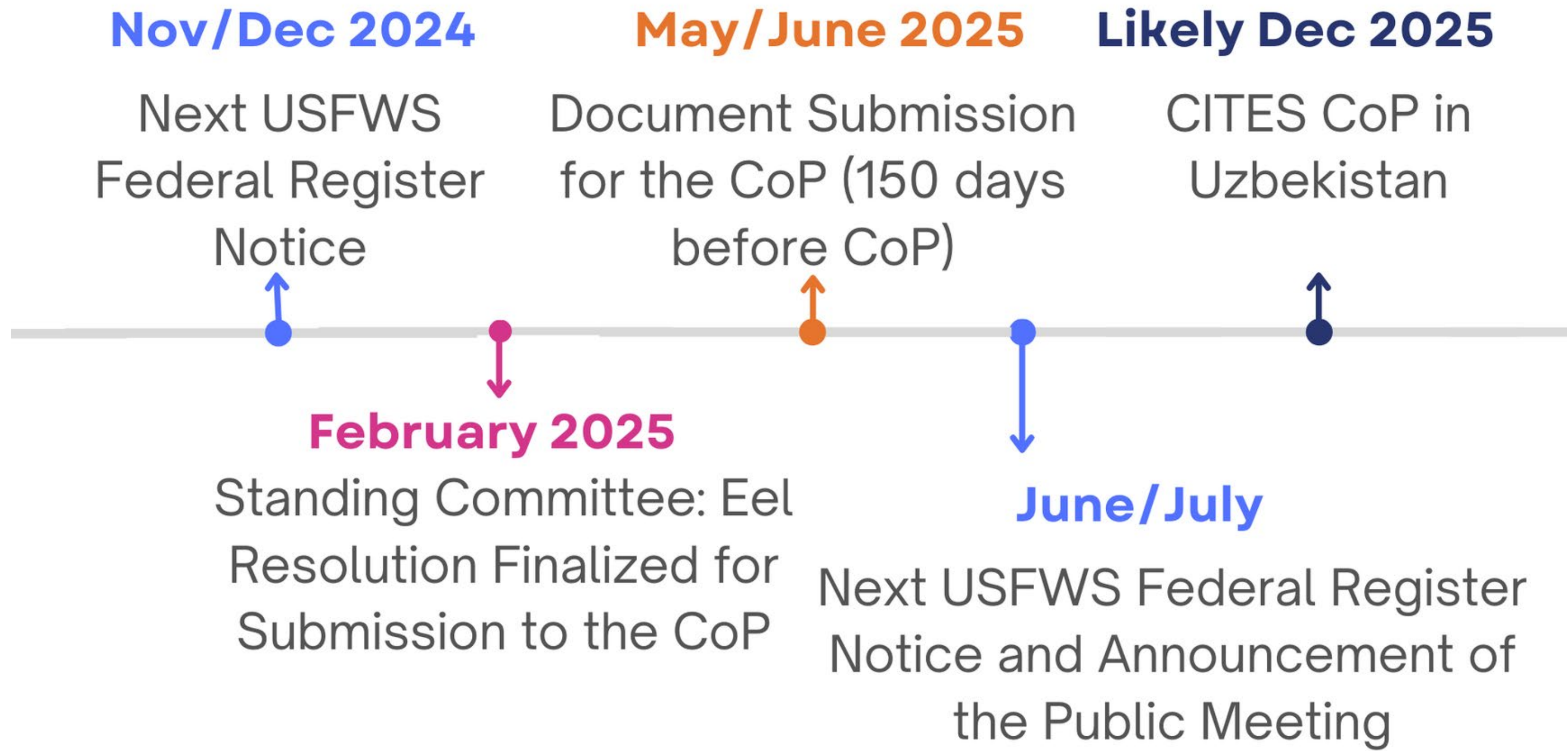
Resolutions include the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties on how to interpret the provisions of the Convention

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS Parties collaborate and assist in building financial and technical capacity in developing countries to implement and enforce CITES and other related international obligations that apply to protect marine turtles...
2. RECOMMENDS Parties affected by illegal trade in marine turtles provide capacity-building interventions, scale up efforts to address illegal harvest...
3. RECOMMENDS Parties improve monitoring, detection, and law enforcement activities at all transaction points...



Road to the Conference of the Parties.



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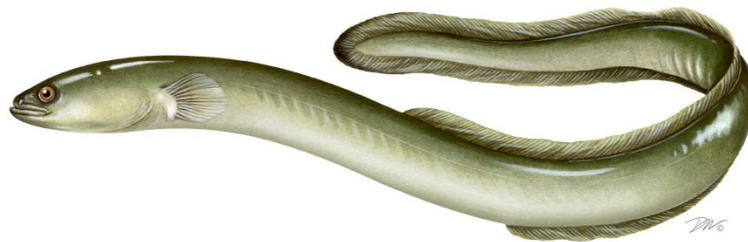
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AMERICAN EEL FMP REVIEW

2023 FISHING YEAR



American Eel Management Board
October 2024

Outline



- Status of the FMP
- Status of the Stock
- Status of the Fishery
- PRT Review of State Compliance
- PRT Recommendations



Fishery Management Plan



Management Measures (*all life stages*)

- Required YOY survey (2000)
- All states must maintain regulations (2000)
- Trip level catch and effort reporting by harvesters and dealers at least monthly (Addendum I)
- Sustainable fishery management plans:
 - Fishing Mortality Plan
 - Transfer Plan quota from yellow to glass
 - Aquaculture Plan: 200 pounds of glass eels if can demonstrate watershed contributes minimally to spawning stock
- Plans must scientifically demonstrate they will not increase overall fishing mortality
- No change in regulations



Fishery Management Plan



Glass Eel Fishery Requirements

- Max of 25 pigmented eels per pound of glass eels (2014)
- Maine glass eel quota of 9,688 lbs with payback (2015)
- Daily trip level reporting with daily electronic accounting for both harvesters dealers (2014/2015):
 - Maine has electronic monitoring program for daily reporting
 - Harvester to dealer
 - Dealer to dealer
 - Export from state
- Maine required to implement life cycle survey (2015)



Fishery Management Plan



Yellow Eel Fishery Regulations

- Minimum size of 9" (2014)
- ½" x ½" min mesh size for yellow eel pots
- Recreational 25 fish bag limit per day per angler
- Crew and captain allowed 50 fish bag limit per day
- Coastwide harvest cap of 916,473 lbs (2019)
- Management trigger of 10% overage for 2 years (2019)
- Addendum VII (May 2024)
 - Coastwide harvest cap of 518,281 pounds starting 2025



Fishery Management Plan



Silver Eel Fishery Regulations

- Seasonal closure from Sept 1 – Dec 31, no eel take except from baited pots/traps and spears (2015)
- Exemption for weir fishery in Delaware River and its tributaries in NY (2014)
 - Restricted to 9 permits that may be transferred (2015)
- No change in regulations



Fishery Management Plan



Aquaculture Plans:

- Maine submitted a continuation of Aquaculture Plan for 2024
 - Approved by the Board in August 2023
 - 200 lbs were harvested by American Unagi in 2023



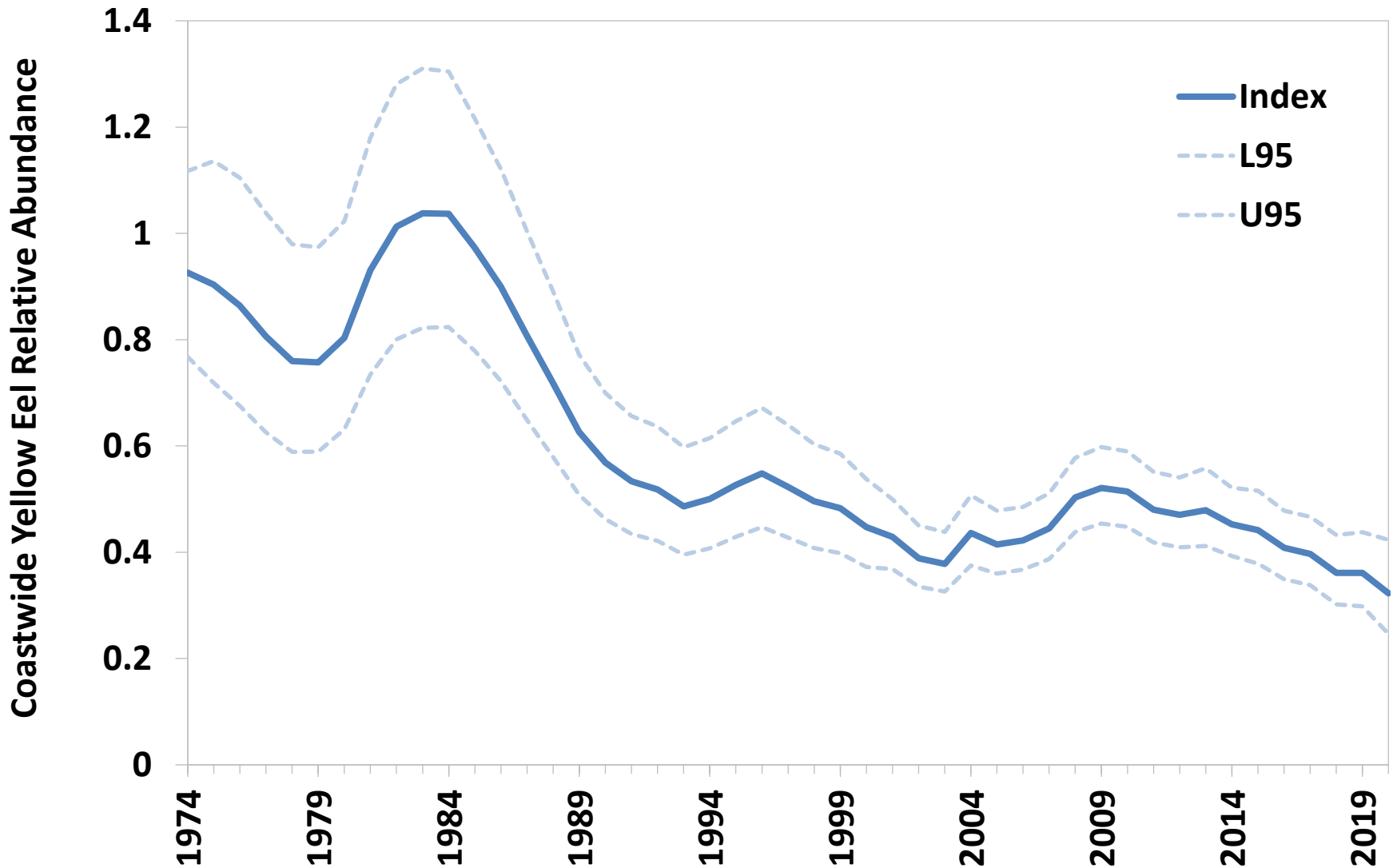
Status of the Stock



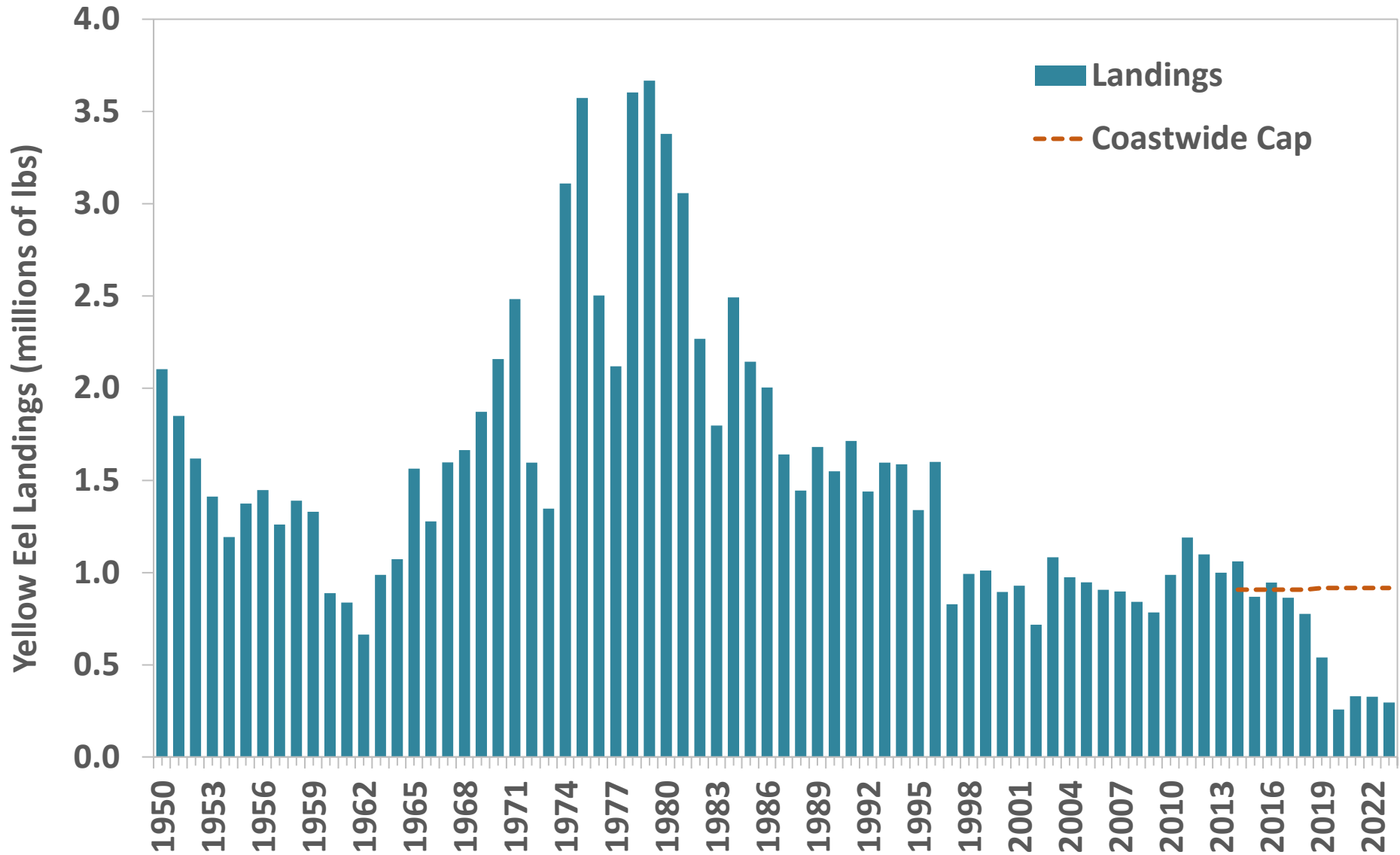
- Benchmark stock assessment peer reviewed in 2022 and accepted for management in 2023
- Stock status: depleted at or near historically low levels
 - combination of factors: historical overfishing, habitat loss, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, disease, etc.
- Yellow eel population declined since last assessment
- No overfished/overfishing determination
- Addendum VII (2024) responds to depleted status



Yellow Eel Abundance Index



Commercial Landings



Status of the Fishery



Commercial Landings

- State-reported landings of yellow/silver eels were around 295,934 lbs in 2023
 - 10% decrease from 2022
 - 32% of the coastwide cap
 - Maryland, Virginia, and New Jersey account for 80% of coastwide harvest
- Maine Glass Eels: 9,510 lbs in 2023
 - SC landings are confidential



PRT Review



Glass Eel Fishery Regulations

- No noted issues on glass eel regulations from state compliance reports

Yellow Eel Fishery Regulations

- New York minimum mesh regulations not consistent with Addendum III
 - Allowance for an escape panel of ½” by ½” mesh instead of adopting minimum mesh size for eel pots
 - In process of implementing consistent regulations



PRT Review



Silver Eel Fishery Regulations

- Delaware has not implemented regulations preventing harvest of eels from pound nets from September 1 through December 31.
 - No pound net landings have been reported in the state in over 50 years
 - Delaware will address this issue as part of any future changes to the eel regulations
- Florida does not have a regulation preventing harvest of eels from pound nets from September 1 through December 31
 - The state is unaware of any active pound net fishery in the past 10-15 years



De minimis



- Standard: by life stage, for preceding 2 years* average commercial landings constitute less than 1% of the coastwide commercial landings for that life stage.

**Will change to 3 years under Addendum VII*

- New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, D.C., Georgia, and Florida requested *de minimis* status for their yellow eel fisheries.
 - Florida average yellow eel landings for 2021-2022 are >1% of coastwide landings



PRT Recommendations



- Consider state compliance notes
- Request NY separate yellow and silver eel landings
- Reevaluate requirement to report catch disposition
 - % bait vs % food
- Engage Committee on Economic and Social Sciences (CESS) to conduct analysis of market demand, specific to food vs bait markets, international market demand
- Work with USFWS to compare landings and exports



Questions?



Photo Credit: Jen Pyle, NJFW